

*REMARKS*

The specification and claims have been carefully reviewed in the light of the Office Action to which this amendment is responsive. By this amendment, independent claim 13 and the claims dependent thereon have been amended to improve their form and to distinguish even more clearly over the prior art. New claims 26 and 27 have been added for more completely covering applicant's invention. An effort also has been made to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner so as to overcome the rejection under § 112.

Claims 13-18 and 21-23 have been rejected as being anticipated by WO 00/78468, and claims 19-20 and 24-25 have been rejected as being obvious over that reference. Reconsideration of such rejection is respectfully requested in the light of the foregoing amendments. Applicant has disclosed and claimed herein a printing machine having a printing cylinder formed with at least one channel for facilitating securement of a printing form or plate onto the cylinder, and a liquid medium applicator device for applying printing ink, varnish, or moistening agents onto the printing cylinder without jolts, vibrations, or shocks that heretofore often occur when applicator rolls come into contacting relation to the cylinder channels of printing cylinders while operated at high speeds and with large formats of material to be printed. The applicator device includes one or more applicator rollers disposed in rolling contact with the printing cylinder which each have a compressible layer of cellular foam material arranged in concentric relation to a roller core and an elastic cover layer adhered to and covering the compressible layer. The compressible layer is deformable as an incident to the applicator roller contacting the printing cylinder channel during high speed operation of the printing machine for dampening against jolts resulting from rolling movement of the applicator roll over the printing cylinder.

In contrast, in WO 00/78468 the applicator rolls 8 apply liquid medium directly to a web 8 with an opposing applicator roll functioning only as an impression or second applicator roller. The reference lacks no teaching or suggesting of an applicator device, as set forth in claim 13, which is operable in association with a printing cylinder having a cylinder channel that facilitates securement of a printing form or printing plate. New claims 26 and 27 are more specifically

directed to offset and flexographic printing machines, respectively, and for similar reasons, are believed to patentably distinguish over the prior art.

From the foregoing, it is believed that the claims as now presented all are directed to features which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art of record so as to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early action to that effect is respectfully requested.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis R. Schlemmer", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis R. Schlemmer, Reg. No. 24,703  
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.  
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900  
180 North Stetson Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6731  
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)  
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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